

Letter from Mabel Hubbard Bell to Alexander Graham Bell, November 28, with transcript

Letter from Mrs. Alexander Graham Bell to Dr. Alexander Graham Bell. 1331 Connecticut Avenue, Washington, D. C. Nov. 28th, (1896) My dear:

Only a few minutes for words of love and thanks. Do you know I got four letters from you yesterday! I only wished there had been as many more. One was your Emerson letter. I am not sure that I care for most of your extracts, they certainly are not the best of his expressions. I like the one about patience. I do not see why he used the word 'We go "antagonizing" on'. I could understand "agonizing on", for that is what I think we do. The one about our time being spent in preparation, in routine, in retrospect, with only a few hours of genius by which I understand real living, seems to me horribly true. Only it does not go far enough, for I think in the majority of lives there is no genius, it is all preparation and routine and retrospect.

You are so good about the reading room. You have taken it up just as you always do things and have given it such a strong, violent push that I am sure it must go on if only by its own momentum. I am asking all around for books and magazines and have the promise of a box from your father. Just wait and see what Lina and I can do. I think we ought to have picture papers and medical journals.

Well I can't stop any longer. Elsie comes tomorrow and I have a thousand and one things to do. I hear through a dozen other people that you leave on Wednesday but you don't say so. Whenever you come you will be most heartily welcome.

Your Mabel. I spent last evening with your father and mother.